

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS
MEETING OF THE SELECT BOARD
MINUTES

Date: October 13, 2020
Time: 10:00am
Place: Via Zoom Meeting
Egremont

Present via zoom meeting were Chairman George McGurn, Vice-Chair Lucinda Fenn-Vermeulen, Board member Mary Brazie. Others participating: Rebecca Turner(Historical Commission), Eileen Vining, Mary McGurn, Marj Wexler, Steve Cohen(Moderator), Susan Bachelder.

It was announced that the meeting is video and audio recorded.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the September 28, 2020 meeting were accepted as edited.

SCHEDULED ISSUES:

Rebecca Turner, Chair of the Historical Commission, spoke with the Board about the separation of oversight of the Archives from the Commission duties as those are typically duties of an Historic Society. Chair Turner read a prepared statement from the Commission (copy attached) in which the Commission noted that under MGL Chapter 40, which defines Historical Commissions, the tasks are the preservation, protection and development of the historical or archeological assets of a town. The Commission wants to become more active in the town and asked for suggestions from the Board as to how best to turn the oversight of the Archives, and its ever growing inventory, to another group. Selectboard Vice-Chair Vermeulen suggested finding out what towns around Egremont are doing. The Board agreed to give this some thought.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Board acknowledged a young local resident, Henry Grant, being awarded the Carnegie Hero Medal for his heroics in helping to save a woman who fell down the cliff at Squaw Peak in Great Barrington. Chairman McGurn will draft a letter of congratulations. An article will be included in the next town newsletter announcing this prestigious award.

OLD BUSINESS:

David Seligman did not contact the Board about the priority form needed for the Forest Management Plan.

The Board is still debating the issue of lowering the liquor license fees for just the coming year. This was deferred to the next meeting.

The Board had just received the proposed increased fees for the C&D container at the Transfer Station so deferred this to the next meeting and will invite Juliette Haas, Jim Noe and Bill Wood to attend to discuss the fees. It was noted that the fees are not proposed to cover all costs of the C&D container and would take effect on January 1.

The Board voted to postpone the Special Town Meeting due to the inclement weather to Thursday, October 15 at 5pm. As the meeting has been posted and called, the Moderator and the Board must convene the meeting at 5pm and announce postponement. All financial articles will be raised and

appropriated as there is no available free cash at this time and the tax rate has not been set. The total amount to be raised is \$39,810.

Vice Chairwoman Vermeulen reported that she has yet to finalize the 3 to 5 person group of citizens to plan a user friendly outdoor space at TH parking area, encompassing the controversial digital sign installed there. The goal is to invite citizens and visitors to visit a place environmentally designed and aesthetically appealing space more in keeping with the beauty and rural aspects of Egremont we cherish. This group will also be charged with all safety aspects necessary to keep this space efficient in its daily roll as the center of our Town Government.

COVID-19:

The job description for the Covid Compliance officer has been approved. There is now another interested party in the position. The funding will be voted on at the Special Town Meeting.

The Board does not have a current update on the status of the minor issues needing to be remedied at April Hill for indoor accommodations for the school enrichment program.

The Halloween event planning is moving forward. The increase of the outdoor gathering limit to 100 will mean that it won't be likely that children will need to be turned away.

FOLLOW UPS/UPDATES:

The Historical Commission has responded positively to the request from MassDOT to review the drafted 75% design plans.

Jeff Lazarus, Rolfe Tessem and Lucinda Vermeulen continue to negotiate with FiberConnect and MBI for a final operations and financial agreement.

The School District Planning Committee continues to meet as does the Operation subcommittee. There is a program in the middle of the state to test teachers for COVID-19. This program was set up as that area continues to be a hotspot of cases, while Berkshire County is not. The efficiency, accuracy and liability surrounding rapid testing was discussed. There was a very successful drive thru flu clinic in Great Barrington recently which sets the stage for a future drive thru COVID-19 vaccination clinic.

SELECTBOARD ITEMS:

The Board will meet on October 27, 2020 at 10am via zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 11:02am.

Mary Brazie,
Office Administrator

minutes.20/oct13

The recording of the minutes is on record at the Town Hall for 90 days. Anyone who wishes to may obtain a copy or listen to the recording at Town Hall. Attachments are on file at Town Hall.